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RED MEAT II | VIANDE ROUGE II

SHEEP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM II

INTRODUCTION

The sheep industry in Ontario represents an important component of the provincial agricultural sector. Total cash receipts have increased from $6.2 million in 1980 to $11.1 million in 1987.

Red Meat II succeeds the original Red Meat Plan and responds to the needs of the sheep industry. Emphasis is on genetic evaluation, technology transfer, quality assurance, and research. Incentives are available to encourage improvements and assist producers with the implementation of flock testing, flock health, ration formulation and farm management programs, and with the installation of capital facilities.

The **Sheep Development Program II** of Red Meat II is a management extension program aimed at improving the efficiency, productivity, competitiveness, and profitability of Ontario sheep producers.

OMAF DATABASE

Data collected under various components of the program will be done so under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Act, R.S.O. 1980, C.270, S.5. The data will be used by the ministry for the purpose of general analysis on an aggregate basis while maintaining individual confidentiality; or for the purpose of complying with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, S.O. 1987, C.25.

Ontario
Ministry of Agriculture and Food
Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation

SHEEP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM II

There are six components to the Sheep Development Program II:

1. SHEEP FLOCK IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (SFIP)
   Annual participation in this component is mandatory in order to receive incentives for any other component of the Sheep Program
2. CAPITAL FACILITIES
3. FLOCK HEALTH
4. LIVE LAMB GRADING
5. RATION FORMULATION
6. ENTERPRISE ANALYSIS

GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

- Red Meat II is effective between April 1, 1989 and March 31, 1994.
- Producers must meet the initial eligibility requirements as stated on the enrolment form.
- Only those weights recorded on, or after, a producer's enrolment are eligible for incentive grants.
- All grants are based on a calendar year.
- There is an annual grant application deadline of March 31st of the year following the calendar year to which the record relates unless otherwise noted.
- The grant application deadline for Enterprise Analysis is June 1st of the year following the year to which the record relates (with the exception of the final year of Red Meat II).
- Application for Capital Facilities grants must be made upon completion of the project. These applications must be submitted by March 31st of the year following the calendar year in which the project was completed.
- In the final year of Red Meat II the application deadline for all grants will be February 1, 1994.
- Producers shall be subject to audit. All receipts, invoices and supporting documents pertaining to grant applications must be retained by the producer for the duration of Red Meat II.

Enrolment and application forms are available at all local agricultural offices.

1. SHEEP FLOCK IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Sheep Flock Improvement Program (SFIP) is the cornerstone of the Sheep Development Program II of Red Meat II. It focuses on the sheep flock and the factors affecting its productivity and efficiency. Optimum levels of performance can be achieved only when these factors receive consideration. SFIP is designed to assist producers by providing an evaluation of the genetic merit of potential breeding stock for rate of gain. It also provides a measure of the comparative productivity of ewes within flocks.

To qualify for enrolment in the Sheep Program, a producer must have a minimum of 25 breeding ewes. To be eligible for capital facilities, a producer must have a minimum of 50 breeding ewes.

Participants are required to identify all rams, ewes and lambs in the flock, record lambing information, and take 50 day and 100 day weights either on the supervised or unsupervised weighing program. Producers who sell breeding stock must enrol on the supervised program.

These weights which must be taken between 35-65 days for 50 day weights, and 85-115 days for 100 day weights, are used to assess productivity of the ewes and performance of lambs in the flock. County or district sheep improvement clubs organize the local weighing program.

Producers must enrol in SFIP separately from Red Meat II.

Enrolment information for SFIP will be forwarded to producers enrolling in Red Meat II.

Red Meat II provides incentives of $3 per weight for supervised weights and $1 per weight for unsupervised weights. Indexes can be generated only from 100 day weights with at least eight 100 day weights in a contemporary group.

Application for 50 and 100 day weigh grants must be made by March 31st of the year following the calendar year to which the record relates.

Incentives for SFIP will be discontinued March 31, 1993.

2. CAPITAL FACILITIES

With adequate sheep handling facilities, producers can direct and control animal movement, reduce costs and labour requirements to handle animals, improve the safety of workers and animals, and treat animals effectively on the farm. The capital facilities grant encourages producers to expand and/or improve existing facilities, and/or to establish handling facilities. Handling facilities requirements will vary from farm to farm.

To be eligible to apply for a capital facilities grant, a producer must:

- have a minimum of 50 breeding ewes
- participate in the Sheep Flock Improvement Program
- submit a Farm Production Plan
- meet the requirements of Section A (described below).

The ministry will pay grants to eligible producers in the amount of 50% of the cost of approved items, up to a maximum total grant of $2,500.

The capital facilities component is divided into two sections. **Producers must satisfy the minimum requirements for Handling Facilities (Section A) prior to becoming eligible for grants under Section B.** Should handling facilities need to be established or improved (to meet Section A requirements), then grants can be applied for only under Section A of capital facilities. Once the minimum requirements for handling facilities are met, then grants can be applied for under Section B.

FARM PRODUCTION PLAN

In order to identify the specific needs of an operation, it is necessary to establish specific goals and objectives. To assist in this process, a Farm Production Plan must be completed in consultation with the sheep contact person in your local agricultural office. The plan will assist in identifying the effective use of the capital facilities grant to meet the objectives of the operation.

The Farm Production Plan is a written description of how the capital facilities project fits into the long term plans of the operation. The specific goals and objectives of the operation should be outlined. This should include estimated costs to achieve the goals. An outline of the plan should be prepared prior to contacting the agricultural office. The sheep contact in the agricultural office will discuss and review the plan with the producer, and will be able to provide advice and direction. At this time, it will be determined whether existing handling facilities meet the minimum requirements as defined by OMAF (Section A). The Farm Production Plan can be reviewed and updated at any time

SECTION A – HANDLING FACILITIES

The main purpose of the Capital Facilities Grant is to assist sheep producers to develop and construct handling and treatment facilities. Before a producer receives any assistance for the other approved items included in the Capital Facilities Grant, the producer must have adequate handling facilities to accommodate at least 50 ewes and lambs.

The minimum requirements for handling facilities are as follows:

A working chute, which must:

- be 24 inches or less wide
- be at least 10 feet in length
- have gates within the chute so that sheep can be contained for treatment (e.g. – guillotine gates)
- have a sorting gate (cutting gate) incorporated into the side or end of the chute
- have solid sides.

A gathering pen, which must:

- be at least 350 square feet in size (7 square feet per ewe and lamb).

At least two holding pens, which must each:

- be at least 250 square feet in size.

Eligible costs would include:

- posts, gates, lumber, hardware and commercial handling systems
- hired labour, when properly supported by invoices showing the number of hours and the hourly rate. Family labour, when provided by the applicant, the applicant's spouse, or a child of the applicant, is not eligible
- gravel, concrete, reinforcing rods or material to strengthen the concrete, or fill, within the pens or chutes of the facility, and within 15 feet of the handling facilities
- site preparation costs incurred in removing soil or rocks.

SECTION B – OTHER SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

Handling facilities must meet the minimum requirements of Section A before grants may be applied for under Section B.

OTHER HANDLING FACILITIES

Eligible items could include:

- expansion and/or improvement to existing handling facilities beyond the *minimum* requirements of Section A
- footbaths
- tipping and turning tables
- dipping tanks
- lamb cradles
- sheep chairs.

PREDATOR CONTROL FENCING

Eligible fencing would be 4 or 5 strand, high tensile electrified wire, with a maximum of 10 inches between upper strands, and 6 inches between lower strands; or materials to assist in predator control of a sheep yard.

Eligible items could include:

- connectors
- ground rods
- underground cable
- staples
- unwinding reels
- tighteners
- brace wire
- lightning control apparatus
- testers
- solar panels integral to the fencing system
- high tensile wire
- high-powered energizers (minimum 2500 volts/ impulse)
- insulators
- off-set brackets
- posts
- springs.

NEW BUILDINGS AND RENOVATIONS TO BARNS

New Buildings to house sheep – Eligible items could include:

- posts, studs, lumber, steel, plastic
- insulation in the roof and/or walls
- rafters and trusses to support the roof
- concrete, gravel, fill or sand for the floor of the structure
- concrete to form an apron up to 15 feet wide at either:
  a) the open side of the structure, or
  b) the side of the structure from which the runs emerge
- gravel within 15 feet of the structure on 4 sides
- site preparation costs incurred in removing topsoil or rocks
- rental of equipment to prepare site and to erect the structure
- hired labour, when properly supported by invoices showing the number of hours and the hourly rate. Family labour, when provided by the applicant, the applicant's spouse, or a child of the applicant, is not eligible.

Renovations to barns for housing sheep – Eligible items could include:

- renovations to the walls and floor of the barn in the area used to house sheep
- concrete and mortar work for the above
- sand, gravel, concrete and fill in the barn, or to form an apron, as per new buildings
- insulation of sheep barns already in existence
- site preparation for floors and aprons of existing structures
- costs incurred building or buying feeders
- purchased water bowls
- hired labour, when properly supported by invoices showing the number of hours and the hourly rate. Family labour, when provided by the applicant, the applicant's spouse, or a child of the applicant, is not eligible.

NOTE: Water lines, paint, stain, ventilation equipment, electrical installation, and the hook-up of water bowls are not eligible items.

SCALES

Scales for the weighing of livestock and feed are eligible.

a) The livestock scale must be appropriate for weighing sheep on the Sheep Flock Improvement Program. The scale must be a platform scale with a dial, sensor bar (for electronic scales) or balance beam, and equipped with a restraining box. The scale must be accurate to within one kilogram.

NOTE: Bathroom scales and milk scales are not eligible for weighing livestock.

b) Feed scales are as above and may include spring and milk scales. A restraining box is not necessary.

ARTIFICIAL REARING EQUIPMENT

Artificial rearing equipment is used to improve the level of production.

Eligible items include:

- new equipment designed to mix and/or dispense milk or milk replacer to the lamb;
- component parts for the fabrication of milk dispensing equipment (e.g. - pails, pipes, tubes, taps, valves, motors, nipples), or other items shown to be a functional part of the system.

If artifical rearing equipment is fabricated, a drawing or picture showing how the component parts were used must be submitted with the grant application. This drawing must be a part of the Farm Production Plan.

PASTURE RENOVATION

The Pasture Renovation component encourages producers to adopt sound pasture management practices as an integral part of their sheep operation.

Eligible items could include:

- purchase of forage seed
- herbicide used for weed control
- fertilizer, as recommended through a current soil test report (which has been reviewed by the sheep contact) from an OMAF Accredited Laboratory
- new or used equipment for seeding, fertilizer spreading, spraying or clipping weeds
- the rental, or custom hiring of seeding, fertilizer spreading, spraying or weed clipping equipment - this includes rental of "no-till" or "power-till" seeders
- purchase of new or used internal electric fencing to permit rotation of sheep
- purchase of the necessary piping to run a water line from a water source to the pasture to supply sheep with a water source on pasture.

The items pertaining to a Pasture Renovation grant application (or part thereof) must be included in the Farm Production Plan.

GENERAL CAPITAL FACILITIES APPLICATION GUIDELINES

1. **Producers participating in the Cow-Calf, Stocker/ Slaughter, Sheep or Meat Goat programs qualify for only one capital facilities grant.**
2. Any item or service on which a grant has been paid under other government assistance programs is not eligible for a grant under Red Meat II.
3. **Grant applications must be submitted to the Ministry in a satisfactory format by March 31st, of the year following the calendar year in which the capital project was completed, except for the final year when February 1st is the deadline.**
4. All records related to the expenses claimed and items purchased under this program must be retained by the applicant. Grant recipients shall be subject to audit.

3. FLOCK HEALTH

A well-planned flock health program is a key factor in the success of a sheep producer's operation. The objectives of a flock health program include the control and management of:

- reproductive performance of ewes
- lamb survival
- lamb growth
- efficiency of feed utilization.

The co-operative, combined efforts of the veterinarian and the owner are essential to a flock health program's success.

By participating in the Sheep Flock Improvement Program (SFIP), a producer will already be incorporating many of the factors that make up a flock health program.

Record-keeping, reproduction, nutrition, parasite control, vaccination, disease diagnosis, treatment, and infectious disease control strategies are common components of a health program. However, each health program must be flexible to suit the producer's operation. Which components are desirable and economically justifiable for a particular flock can be determined by analyzing farm records and judging past success.

The assessments of farm characteristics, reproductive performance, lamb survival, animal disease, and the comparison to the owner's objectives and realistic standards are considered vital to all flock health programs. Therefore, records analyses and the calculation of a minimum number of critical performance measurements will be a requirement of the Flock Health program.

Each owner will need to maintain minimal breeding, lambing, disease, and mortality records. Veterinarians will need to maintain reports of consultations with their clients. Effective scheduling of the consultative visits to occur with certain farming activities should yield maximum benefit to the producer. Four opportune times for consultative visits are: prebreeding visit; gestation visit; lambing visit; and post-weaning of the lambs visit. Adequate records and handling facilities should keep veterinary charges to producers to a minimum.

The Flock Health program is comprised of two sections. The requirements of Section A must be met prior to being eligible for grants under Section B.

To be eligible for flock health incentives, producers must participate in SFIP and actively participate in a preplanned veterinary supervised Flock Health program (Section A). A flock health visit report must be completed in consultation with the flock veterinarian at each visit. A minimum of two prescheduled visits are required. These visits must be at least 30 days apart.

SECTION A (Mandatory)

Producers must participate in a preplanned veterinarian supervised Flock Health program annually.

Two completed Flock Health Visit Reports (one per visit) must accompany the grant application before the grant will be honoured.

The annual grant is based on flock size. For those flocks consisting of 25-199 ewes, the grant is $200 annually. For those flocks consisting of 200 or more ewes, the grant is $300 annually.

SECTION B (Applicable only if the producer has complied with Section A)

Annual grants are available to a maximum grant of $300 for any combination of either Ram Breeding Ability Evaluation and/or Estrus Synchronization.

Ram Breeding Ability Evaluation

A grant of $25 per ram will be paid for the breeding evaluation of rams performed by a veterinarian.

The completed Ram Breeding Ability Evaluation form must accompany the Flock Health application before the grant will be honoured.

Eligible evaluations are those that are:

a) conducted prior to the breeding season;

b) conducted if the ram is offered for sale.

Estrus Synchronization

A grant of $50 will be paid for any approved surgical procedure performed by a veterinarian, which results in a "teaser" ram for the stimulation and detection of estrus.

GENERAL FLOCK HEALTH APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Application for Flock Health grants must be made by March 31st of the year following the calendar year in which the consultative visits were made. In the final year of the program, application must be made by February 1st.

4. LIVE LAMB GRADING PROGRAM

In order to remain competitive with imported lamb from all sources, all classes of lamb should be graded to identify quality.

All classes of lambs sold in Ontario will be graded under this program with the exception of Medium and Common lambs and Feeder lambs. This will include New Crop Lambs 45 - 79 lbs., Light Lambs 45 - 79 lbs., 80 - 110 lb. Lambs and Heavy Lambs 111 - 130 lbs.

The live lamb grading program will assist producers in developing an awareness of properly finished lambs. Uniform groups of lambs will be made available to the market place. Graded lambs will readily enable buyers to identify those of superior quality.

The graded lambs will be identified by a paint brand. Only lambs of A_1 and A_2 carcass grade will be paint branded. The different classes of lambs will be distinguished by various colours of branding paint, as noted below.

Red paint brands are used to identify New Crop Lambs 45 - 79 lbs.

Purple paint brands are used to identify Light Lambs 45 - 79 lbs.

Green paint brands are used to identify 80 - 110 lb. Lambs

Blue paint brands are used to identify Heavy Lambs 111 - 130 lbs.

Ram lambs should be castrated if finish date is after the 15th August.

Grants of $3 per inspected lamb will be available for lambs graded by Approved Live Lamb Graders.

Incentives for the Live Lamb Grading program will be discontinued March 31, 1992.

Any producer in the province is eligible to have lambs graded if the following guidelines are met:

- To be eligible for incentives, producers must be participating in SFIP.
- Lambs must be graded by Approved Live Lamb Graders (contact your local county office).
- The producer must have a satisfactory scale to weigh lambs (pig scale or balance beam with restraining box).
- Lambs to be sorted must be a minimum of 45 lbs. to a maximum of 130 lbs.
- Ewe lambs and wether lambs are eligible to be paint branded as well as ram lambs as long as they are youthful. All lambs must be docked, clean, in short fleece and devoid of excessive manure around the belly and dock areas. New crops are not required to be docked.
- Lambs must be of A_1 or A_2 carcass quality before they can be paint branded.
- Branded lambs are expected to go to market within one week of grading.
- There is no restriction on where paint branded lambs are marketed.

GENERAL APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Application for Live Lamb Grading grants must be made by March 31st of the year following the calendar year in which the lambs were graded.

A Live Lamb Grading certificate must accompany the Live Lamb Grading application before the grant will be honoured.

5. RATION FORMULATION

Feed represents a major cost of production for Ontario sheep producers. Changes in feeding programs can have a large impact on animal performance and on total farm profitability. Feed analysis and ration formulation are important tools to optimize animal performance.

Presenting a balanced diet to livestock will result in improved live weight gains and a more efficient use of the available feedstuffs.

In order to be eligible for ration formulation grants, the following conditions must be met:

1. Producers must participate in SFIP.
2. **Ration formulations must be prepared by a facility within Ontario.** Rations do not necessarily have to be formulated by OMAF. The program recognizes the importance of properly formulated rations whether by feed companies, veterinarians, consultants or producers.
3. **Ration formulations must be based on analyzed feedstuffs.** Major ration ingredients must be analyzed in an OMAF accredited analytical laboratory. Commercial feeds guaranteed to meet feedtag specifications do not require analysis.

   Minimum required analysis:

   Hay, Haylage and Corn Silage: Dry Matter (DM), Crude Protein (CP), Calcium (Ca), Phosphorous (P), Acid Detergent Fibre (ADF).

   Grains, Total Mixed Rations and Other Feeds: DM, CP, Ca, P.
4. **Rations must be formulated to meet requirements for at least DM, CP, Ca, P and energy. Animal requirements and levels of the above nutrients supplied by the formulated ration must be shown on the ration report.** Rations should be formulated for separate classes of sheep (i.e. – mature sheep (ewes and rams), and young lambs (early weaned, replacement ewes, replacement rams, growing and finishing market lambs).
5. **A copy of the ration and laboratory feed analysis report(s) must be submitted with each application for incentive grant payment. The name(s) of the facility(ies) preparing the ration and feed analysis report(s) must be clearly indicated.**
6. **Each application must be submitted to the local Ministry office by March 31 of the year following the calendar year in which the ration formulation was prepared. In the final year of the program, each application must be submitted by February 1st.**

A $50 incentive grant will be provided for each eligible ration formulation to a maximum of $200/year.

6. ENTERPRISE ANALYSIS

An annual grant of $500 is available for the accurate completion and analysis of the Farm Enterprise Analysis workbook.

In order to be eligible for an Enterprise Analysis grant, the following conditions must be met:

1. Producers must participate in SFIP.
2. **The workbook must be submitted for analysis under the Ontario Farm Management Analysis Program prior to June 1st of the year following the year to which the record relates.**
3. In the final year of the program, submission must be made by February 1st.
4. Producers participating in the Cow-Calf, Stocker/Slaughter, Sheep or Meat Goat programs qualify for only one Enterprise Analysis grant annually.

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